

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

SWF-02 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 NSC-07 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6993

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 12922

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WFC

SUBJ: COMMENT BY FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON UN SPEECH BY
PRESIDENT FORD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FAO PRESS RELEASE DATED SEPTEMBER 19
GIVING COMMENTS BY FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA ON PRESIDENT
FORD'S SPEECH TO 29TH SESSION OF UNGA:

QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT ON THE WORLD
FOOD SITUATION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TODAY IS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AS IT COVERS MANY BASIC POINTS
THAT FAO HAS BEEN ADVOCATING OVER THE YEARS, THAT IS THE NEED
FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FAIR PRICES FOR BOTH
PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. I AGREE WITH PRESIDENT FORD THAT
NO BASIC COMMODITIES SHOULD BE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES
AND THAT THE POOR MUST HAVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS, IN PRINCIPLE,
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IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WORLD FOOD RESERVES SYSTEM ADVOCATED

BY FAO LAST YEAR AND ENDORSED BY THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1973. I CONSIDER THAT THE PROMISE BY THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE FOOD AID IS A POSITIVE DECISION, WHICH IS WELCOMED AND NECESSARY.

THE WORLD IS IN A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION AND I CAN FORESEE THAT THE WORLD WILL NEED AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF FOOD AID IN THE YEARS TO COME, IF IT IS JUST TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT NEED FOR FOOD. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL PRESENT TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER IN ROME. THIS STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

I AM ALSO IN AGREEMENT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOLVE THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS SHOULD BE MADE NOT ONLY BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BUT ALSO BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO ARE ABLE TO DO SO.

I NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT NO REFERENCE WAS MADE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT TO MULTILATERAL AID. I FEEL THAT, IN THE LONG RUN, THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A COMMON POLICY FOR FOOD AND ENERGY IS TO WORK MORE TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING MORE AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS.
END QUOTE.VOLPE

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